addition, financial assistance has been sought from the Asian Development Bank by the NTPC for capacity expansion of Unchahar Thermal Power Project, which has recently been taken over by it from the Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam (UPRVUN).

Construction of an International Airport at Bangalore

*395. SHRI PRABHAKAR B. KORE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Experts Committe under Shri C. S. Ramanathan IAS (Retd.) has recommended the construction of an International Airport at Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Ramanathan, after inspection of several sites, have recommended a location South of Bangalore city for construction of an airport. The Committee has recommended construction of an airport with two parallel runways to meet the requirements of international as well as domestic air traffic. The Committee has also recommended a direct rail link to the airport terminal building from the city and Cantonment Railway stations.

Objectives of DA payment of Government Employees

*396. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the basic objective of giving Dearness Allowance to the Central Government employees;

(b) whether that objective is achieved by impounding the DA and merging the same in the Provident Fund, if not, Government propose to stop hence-forth the impugned practice of merging DA instalments with Provident Fund; and

(c) whether Government propose to make such DA instalments free from income tax as these are not actually paid to the employees but are merged with Provident Fund ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) to (c) Dearness Allowance is given to the Central Government employees in accordance with the formula recommended by the 4th Central Pay Commission and as accepted by the Government, which provides for increase in dearness allowance on the basis of the percentage increase in 12 monthly average of the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (general) (1960=100) over the base average index of 608. Prior to 1-1-86, additional instalments of dearness allowance were given for every 8/16/24 point increase in the average index depending on the pay range.

Employees drawing pay upto Rs. 3500/- p. m. who constitute bulk of the Central Government employees are being paid additional instalments of dearness allowance in cash. Employees drawing pay beyond Rs. 3500/- p. m. were also paid additional instalments of dearness allowance in cash upto 1-1-1990. The additional instalment of dearness allowance due to these employees w.e.f. 1-7-1990 are being credited to their respective provident fund accounts with a view to minimising the immediate cash outgo from the Consolidated Fund of India.

Under the Income Tax Act, the tax is levied on any income which accrues or arises to a tax payer. Thus, any dearness allowance which is either due or received by an employee is taxable. However, the employees get a rebate in income tax on the deposits made in their Provident Fund Accounts under the Income Tax Act.

Shortfall in Power Generation Capacity in Gujarat

*397. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the anticipated shortfall of power generation capacity in Gujarat in the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether any coal linkage has been provided for new projects to meet this shortfall; and

(c) if not, in what manner the shortfall is proposed to be met ?